

But if it should be true, as GOD forbid! I shall have cause to curse them whiles I live, and my children after me* Wherefore, I shall desire your Honour to be so good in this cause, to call before your Honour, BENEDICK SPINOLA, and to require him to declare you the truth in this matter, and thereupon, as the cause requireth, to advertise the Queen's Majesty thereof; to the end there might be some Stay made of King PHILLIP'S treasure here in these parts, till there be sufficient recompense made for the great wrong offered, and also other wrongs done before this.

And if it shall not please the Queen's Majesty to meddle in this matter (although Her Majesty shall be the greatest loser therein!) yet that she would give her subjects leave to meddle with them by law; and then, I trust, we should not only have recompense to the uttermost, but also do as good service as is to be devised, with so little cost. And I hope to please GOD best therein; for that they are GOD's enemies!

This I thought good to advertise your Honour, to the end, I might thereby be blameless therein, and you, thereby, to see it redressed.

There was an Act and Decree directed unto
 Sir ARTHUR
 CHAMPERNOWN and me, out of the [Lord]
 Admiral's Court,
 [of] which [the] effect was, that, by both our
 consents, the
 ships with the goods sequestered in our
 hands should
 be delivered unto the Flemings; and Master
 KELL and
 his [ac] complices, with their ships, to
 be released;
 always reserving unto every one, for the false
 keeping
 and conservation of the ships and goods, their
 charges,
 taxed and allowed by Sir ARTHUR and me, or
 one of us.
 Which we have done accordingly; and
 now the Judge
 mmdeth to alter all; wherefore, if occasion
 shall serve, I
 shall desire your Honour's help herein. And
 I shall daily
 pray for your Honourable Estate long
 to endure.

From Plymouth, the 3rd day of
 December, 1568. By your Honour's
 always to command,

WILLIAM
 HAWKINS,

Addressed—

To the Right Honourable Sir WILLIAM CECIL
 Knight, Secretary to the Queen's Majesty; give
 this, with all speed!